TYLER KIRKHAM · DAVID MILLER · IFANSYAH NOOR

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FINAL BOSS

PREVIOUSLY IN

FINAL BOSS

STAGE 1 : GENESIS

While competing in an underground Masked Fighting League, disgraced former Special Forces Operative TOMMY BRAZEN discovers that he has inherited supernatural powers that run in his family based on cryptic stories his grandfather told him about his family line.

STAGE 2 : THE JOURNEY BEGINS

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MY GUT IS TELLING ME WE SHOULDN'T BE HERE.

WORLD WAR 2, SOMEWHERE IN THE PACIFIC.

WE'RE STUCK HERE WITH NO OTHER OPTIONS. THE WAY I SEE IT, WE HAVE A SLIM TO NONE CHANCE AT GETTING RESCUED.

IF ANYTHING, WE'RE GONNA NEED SHELTER AND HUMANS HAVE CLEARLY USED THIS.

PLUS, MAYBE WE CAN FIND SOMETHING USEFUL. AS LONG AS THERE ARE NO MORE BLOODSUCKING BATS. LET'S PRESS FORWARD.

MY GOD.

KEEP YOUR HEAD ON A SWIVEL, BOYS. WHO KNOWS WHAT LURKS IN HERE.

I DIDN'T PLAN ON BECOMING A TOMB RAIDER TODAY...

WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS WAS ALL BUILT FOR, SIR?

IF I HAD TO GUESS? A RELIGIOUS TEMPLE? MAYBE TO A GOD LIKE ***ZEUS***? THESE STATUES LOOK LIKE WARRIORS, SO MAYBE A WARRIOR GOD? ***ARES,*** PERHAPS?

HOWEVER, THEY DON'T RESEMBLE ***GREEK*** OR ***ROMAN*** MYTHOLOGY. PLUS, I DON'T THINK THEY VOYAGED THIS FAR. IT'S SOMETHING ELSE....

TEN BUCKS SAYS THE ***NAZIS*** ARE TRYING TO FIND THIS PLACE. WHO KNOWS WHAT TYPE OF VOODOO THEY COULD CONJURE UP IN HERE.

YOU HEAR THEY ARE TRYING TO BRING BACK DEAD SOLDIERS? WE'RE GONNA BE FIGHTING ***FRANKENSTEIN'S*** MONSTER BEFORE THE WAR ENDS.

PIPE DOWN. THERE ARE REMAINS EVERYWHERE.

HMMM. HEY BOYS, I FOUND SOM--

SLINKT

GAAAH! MY FUCKING HAND!

WHUUUUMP

ARRRGGGHH!

SPLAT

JESUS!

TODAY.

I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT JUST HAPPENED. I LITERALLY JUST KILLED THAT GUY WITH SOME SORT OF ENERGY THAT MANIFESTED BETWEEN US. I MUST HAVE ABSORBED HIS STRENGTH. HIS ENERGY. I ***POWERED UP!***

RABACK, WE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE.

AFTER THIS ASS TRASH GIVES ME OUR SHARE OF THE POT. YOU WON THAT SHIT. YOU SEE THAT GUY? HE'S LAYING IN HALF ON THE CANVAS. HE'S FUCKIN' DONE.

COME GET IT.

HERE WE GO. NO WAY THIS ENDS WELL. ***FOR THEM.*** I ALSO CAN'T HELP BUT NOTICE THE MYSTERIOUS ONLOOKERS...

GIMME THAT. YOU AIN'T GETTING SHIT.

NORMALLY I WOULD TRY TO DEESCALATE THIS SITUATION. SEEING HOW MANY OF THEM THERE ARE.

RABAK IS A BADASS. HE COULD TAKE A FEW ON, BUT EVENTUALLY HE WOULD GET OVERWHELMED.

HOWEVER, THE WAY I AM FEELING RIGHT NOW, I COULD TAKE ON AN ARMY! WE NEED THAT CASH AND THERE IS NO WAY WE ARE LEAVING WITHOUT IT.

LIKE HELL.

POP

OH, YOU'RE DEAD NOW.

LET'S DO SOME DAMAGE!

CRACK

DO YOU KNOW WHO YOU'RE SWINGING AT, BOY? I LEARNED FROM THE BEST. I TRAIN GUYS WHO WOULD WIPE THEIR ASS WITH YOU!

THAP

WHAT DO YOU THINK I'M GONNA DO TO YOU?!

THRAK

TOLD YOU.

EHH...

THAP

RABAK'S DAD WAS A RUTHLESS PRIZEFIGHTER. HIS PRIDE GOT THE BEST OF HIM, BUT NOT BEFORE HE TAUGHT RABAK SOME OF HIS BEST MOVES!

COME HERE!

MY FISTS FEEL LIKE FLYING BOWLING BALLS. I MAY BE BREAKING MY KNUCKLES RIGHT NOW, BUT IT'S A LOT WORSE FOR HIM! I CAN TELL YA THAT.

IF THIS IS HOW ***CHAIN PAIN*** FELT ON A NORMAL DAY, I GOT LUCKY BY AVOIDING A LETHAL HAMMER FIST AND KEEPING MY HEAD INTACT. HE HAD A HISTORY OF STANDING ON TOP OF HIS OPPONENTS' CORPSES AT THE END OF A BOUT, BATHED IN BLOOD AND LICKING THE BRAINS OFF HIS HANDS AS THE CROWD CHEERED IT ON. SICK FUCKS.

ALTHOUGH THIS POWER FEELS AMAZING, I'M DOING THIS TO PROTECT US. THESE GUYS WILL KILL US OVER A BUCKET OF CASH I EARNED FAIR AND SQUARE.

WE CAN'T GO EASY ON 'EM.

CRACK

GET OVER HERE!

THIWP

BEFORE THIS POWER FADES...

I GOTTA MAKE...

A FINAL...

SPLASH!

THAT WAS SAVAGE, MAN. WE BETTER GET OUR ASSES OUTTA HERE THOUGH.

YOU WERE LOOKING FASTER THAN EVER. YOUR POPS WOULD BE PROUD. YEAH, SCOOP UP THAT CASH. LET'S ROLL.

HMM. LOOKS LIKE WE COULD HAVE SOME MORE TROUBLE...

BRAVO, BRAVO! MR. BRAZEN, MAY I HAVE A WORD?

THAT WAS QUITE THE SHOW YOU PUT ON! YOU HAVE MADE AN INSTANT FAN OUT OF ME AND THAT'S NOT EASY TO DO! LOOKS LIKE YOU LEFT THE REST OF THE CROWD, WELL, LET'S SAY SPEECHLESS.

UMM, THANKS. BUT WHO ARE YOU?

YO THESE ARE THOSE IMPORTANT PEEPS I MENTIONED. PLAY IT COOL.

MY FRIENDS CALL ME ***MIDNIGHT LILY.*** YOU CAN CALL ME LILY. DON'T MIND MY COMPANIONS. I KNOW THEY AREN'T PRETTY TO LOOK AT, BUT THEY HAVE COME IN QUITE HANDY WHEN WE RUN INTO CREEPS THAT THINK THEY ARE ***FABIO.***

URMMNN.

ALTHOUGH I CAN HANDLE MYSELF AND LOVE THE CHANCE TO BREAK A WRIST HERE OR THERE.

THAT BEING SAID, LET'S GET TO WHY I'M HERE AND WHERE YOU COME IN!

MY BOSS IS QUITE THE ADMIRER OF YOU! HE'S BEEN KEEPING AN EYE ON YOU AND HAS NOTICED YOUR GROWTH AND SKILL AS A FIGHTER IN THE LAST FEW YEARS.

LET'S JUST SAY HE'S RICH AND POWERFUL AND IS LOOKING FOR A FIGHTER TO COME TEST THEIR METTLE ON THE ISLAND OF ***FARTHICA,*** AGAINST ALL THE FREAKS OF NATURE AND DEMIGODS OVER THERE, IN WHAT WE HOPE IS THE FIRST ANNUAL ***CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE GODS*** TOURNAMENT!

THE NEXT DAY.

FARTHICA. THE LOST ISLAND IN THE SEA. THE ISLAND OF POWER. ALTHOUGH THAT PLACE SCARES THE HELL OUT OF ME, THIS IS MY CHANCE. MY GRANDFATHER DISCOVERED THIS PLACE, AND NOW IT'S TURNED INTO SOMETHING NO WORLD GOVERNMENT WANTS TO MESS WITH OR EVEN ACKNOWLEDGE.

AN ISLAND NATION FULL OF PEOPLE WHO HAD THE GOAL TO TRAVEL TO THE TEMPLE MY GRANDFATHER FOUND TO OBTAIN THE POWER OF A GOD OR DIE TRYING...I'VE ONLY SEEN A FEW PICTURES OF WHAT IT'S LIKE NOW, BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE THIS IS THE BEST WAY TO DISCOVER HOW MY FATHER DIED.

IF I DON'T DIE IN THIS TOURNAMENT FIRST, THAT IS...

GENTLEMEN, ARE WE READY FOR AN ADVENTURE?!

RIGHT THIS WAY. ***ANNE*** HERE HAS ALREADY TAKEN THE LIBERTY OF POURING YOU A DOUBLE OF YOUR FAVORITE WHISKEY!

I LIKE THIS ALREADY!

MAN...THIS IS SURREAL, ***HUH?*** WE HAVE BEEN GRINDING AND FINALLY SOMETHING IS PAYING OFF! WISH OUR POPS WERE HERE TO SEE US NOW!

RABAK'S FATHER PASSED SHORTLY BEFORE MY DAD RAN OFF...

HAH, YEAH! LET'S SEE WHERE THIS RIDE TAKES US. WHO KNOWS WHAT WE'RE GONNA SEE OVER THERE.

IT LOOKS LIKE WHOEVER IS PUTTING THIS ON HAS SOME SERIOUS RESOURCES AND REACH. I MEAN, THEY TRACKED A NOBODY LIKE ME DOWN? ***HOW?***

I HOPE THIS ISN'T A FOOL'S ERRAND THAT'S GONNA GET ME KILLED JUST LIKE MY OLD MAN.

SOME YEARS AGO.

BOY, THE WAY YOU PULLED THAT HORSE OUT OF THE MUD! I'VE NEVER SEEN STRENGTH AND WILL LIKE THAT IN A BOY YOUR AGE!

MAKES ME WONDER IF I PASSED YOU DOWN SOME OF MY POWERS. *HAHA!*

WE KNOW IT SKIPPED YOUR FATHER'S GENERATION.

HEH.

MY FATHER RESENTED US FOR THAT. HE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND HOW IT COULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THE POWERS MY GRANDFATHER OBTAINED ON THE ISLAND TO HAVE SKIPPED HIM AND GONE TO ME.

IT WASN'T TOO LONG AFTER THAT HE LEFT US...HE HAD TO TRAVEL TO THAT ISLAND TO SEE FOR HIMSELF.

HE SAW MY GRANDFATHER DO SOME AMAZING THINGS AFTER HE GOT BACK FROM THE WAR, BUT I DON'T KNOW IF HE EVER TRULY BELIEVED HIS STORIES UNTIL HE SAW MY BURST OF STRENGTH THAT DAY.

WE NEVER HEARD FROM HIM AGAIN AFTER HE LEFT. WE ASSUMED THE WORST. EITHER HE DIDN'T MAKE IT TO THE ISLAND, OR IF HE DID HE GOT KILLED IN THAT CAVE. THERE'S NO WAY HE DOESN'T COME HOME AND GLOAT IF HE SURVIVED.

WOOOWEEE! LOOK AT THESE WHIPS!

LOAD UP, GENTLEMEN, YOUR DRIVER WILL TAKE YOU TO YOUR HOTEL.

GOOD EVENING. I HOPE YOUR FLIGHT WAS PLEASANT AND RELAXING. I HOPE YOU SOAKED IT IN WHILE YOU COULD! WE DIDN'T BRING YOU HERE FOR PLEASURE.

WE BROUGHT YOU HERE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BIGGEST, MOST ELECTRIFYING COMBAT COMPETITION IN THE WORLD! SOMETHING ONLY ALLOWED ON THE ISLAND NATION OF FARTHICA.

OUTSIDE THE REACH AND TAME RULES AND REGULATIONS OF YOUR GOVERNMENTS. YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN. HAND SELECTED TO COMPETE, NOT ONLY FOR CASH PRIZES, FAME AND GLORY, BUT TO BECOME A GOD AMONGST MEN.

STARTING TO THINK I MAY BE OUT OF MY DEPTH HERE, MAN...

INTENSE!

IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW ALREADY, FARTHICA IS HOME TO THE TREE OF POWER. AN ANCIENT TEMPLE THAT HOUSES A GREAT DEITY OF WAR. A BEING THAT CAN ONLY BE SUMMONED BY THE TRUEST AND FIERCEST OF WARRIORS.

SOME COMPETITORS HAVE SURVIVED THIS TRIAL OF MIGHT AND SOME HAVE BEEN CURSED TRYING. EITHER WAY, IF YOU SURVIVE, YOU COME OUT A DIFFERENT PERSON.

THEN THERE ARE ONES LIKE YOU. GIFTED WARRIORS THAT WERE BROUGHT HERE TO CHALLENGE THESE DEMIGODS AND FREAKS.

FARTHICA HAS COME A LONG WAY SINCE ITS REDISCOVERY ALMOST EIGHTY YEARS AGO. SOME HAVE FLOURISHED...

GRANDDAD, IF ONLY YOU COULD SEE WHAT YOU STARTED. WHAT HAS BECOME OF THAT OVERGROWN ISLAND LOST TO THE EARTH AND MAN YOU SHIPWRECKED ON. IT'S SOMETHING OUT OF THIS WORLD.

WHILE SOME HAVE CREATED AN UNDERBELLY SO TERRIFYING IT WILL HAUNT YOUR *YES...EEE...AAA...KKKK999T.*

YO, WHY WE STOPPING?

HERE. GET OUT.

WELL... SHIT.

OFF TO AN INTERESTING START.

WHAT'S THE LETTER SAY?

OUR HOTEL WELCOME LETTER HAS SOME HANDWRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS.

SAYS GO TO CRANK'S *MERC AND VILE?*

Farthica Tourist Preservation

GO TO CRANK'S MERC

TO BE CONTINUED

NEXT ISSUE!

"FIGHT POWER-UP REPEAT"

COVER A **TYLER KIRKHAM**

RATED **M** (MATURE)

ZONE